# Governors Report December 2021

## Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form open event well. Many of the year 11 families attended and we had thirty-four external families attend.  In these Covid days, that is quite good. However, Governors should be aware how much Covid has undermined our ability to spread the word about the Sixth Form. Our tube advertisements in the last couple of years (purchased before Covid) were essentially a waste. We had two advertising campaigns and to put them off, we had to pay extra. We did this, but now with hindsight, even that was a waste of money because the tube has changed irrevocably in terms of the numbers of commuters who see the adverts.

We are advertising on the school site with banners and signs. We are also using Tik Tok. The students make these Tik Tok adverts themselves and they are quite talented at this. However, we haven't had a single person interested in the school say that the way they have heard about us is through Tik Tok. It tends to be through word of mouth.

This is nice because it means current Sixth Formers are speaking highly about us but clearly word of mouth is limited as a way of spreading the word about us. The local grammar schools have the reputation of being the place to go if you are clever and so we get the students both at year 7 and year 12 who have been rejected by the grammars.

## Pupil Attendance

Covid has hit our attendance massively and I do genuinely worry that we will never be able to return to our excellent attendance before Covid. We are however managing to maintain an average of 92% which is pretty good, given that some children are having to isolate for testing positive.

## Staffing

Some staff have had to isolate for testing positive but other than that, staff attendance has been excellent as usual. A handful of teachers are leaving us at the end of the year after many years of service. Four are going abroad to teach and one is going on maternity leave. This number may grow as the year progresses.

We have recruited a few teachers to begin in the summer term and the autumn term. We also have a new Science teacher starting in January. Recruitment continues as normal.

## Visitors

After having stopped visitors, we returned to having guests in the building at the start of October. A number of visitors came, (mainly teachers) and were impressed with what they saw. Sadly, since the recent announcements from government, we have taken the decision to suspend visits until we know more about the Covid situation.

## Exams

Like the rest of the schools in the country, we have no idea what is happening with regard to exams. The government is currently saying that national exams should happen but Ofqual is also telling schools to be sure to put aside regular evidence of the grades children are working at. This suggests they plan to abolish exams. The Education Secretary has also suggested that schools might close in January, by saying that schools will not close. This government tends to do what they say they won't do! Having said that, I do not believe schools will close, or at least I hope they won't. We have our Covid lockdown plan for teaching ready if that happens.

## Pupil Progress

Pupils are making good progress and teachers are doing their best to catch up what has been lost over the two lockdowns. After our internal exams in February, I will be able to update governors with some pupil data.